

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2007  
MEADOWEDGE, WEST SAYVILLE**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ray Corwin	Chairman, Member at Large
Miles Borden	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
Gil Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Gregory Dawson	Trustee, Town of Islip
John Fritz	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Scott Hilary	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Gary Olsen	Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Todd Stebbins	Member of the Board
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Al Colina	Vice Chairman, Town of Southampton
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Tracey Bellone	Acting Commissioner
William B. Sickles	Sr. Superintendent of Parks
Nick Gibbons	Sr. Environmental Analyst
Tom Hroncich	Director – Parks Foundation
Terry Maccarone	Coordinator of Community Based Programs
Ann Rothenberg	Assistant to the Commissioner

**GUESTS**

Lauretta Fischer	Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department
Janet Longo	Deputy Director, Real Property Acquisitions and Management
Jennifer Kohn	Assistant County Attorney

Chairman Corwin called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

There were members of the public present. They declined Chairman's invitation to speak.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2007**

**A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Fritz. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

## **PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE**

Lauretta Fischer proposed five acquisitions. Colored site maps were distributed describing each property.

### **Pipes Cove County Park Addition – Milazzo Family LLC Property**

The acquisition of 13.0 acres in Greenport West, Town of Southold. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program – Open Space Preservation.

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Hilary and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-1. Trustee Corwin abstained.**

### **Peconic Dunes County Park Addition – Moeller & TMJ Realty, Inc. Property**

The acquisition of 57.8 acres in the Hamlet of Southold, Town of Southold. This will be a 50/50 acquisition with the Town of Southold and will be acquired under the Suffolk County Environmental Legacy Fund for Open Space Preservation.

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Hilary and seconded by Trustee Stebbins. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

### **Aspatuck Creek – Gary J. Sapiane and the Estate of Frank Bilski Property**

The acquisition of 2.42 acres in Quogue, Town of Southampton. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program – Open Space.

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Cardillo. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

### **Three Mile Harbor County Park Addition – Boys & Girls Harbor, Inc. Property**

The acquisition of 27.82 acres in Three Mile Harbor, Town of East Hampton. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Partnership Program – Parkland. This acquisition will be a 50/50 match with the Town of East Hampton. East Hampton will also be responsible for improving and maintaining the uses at the site.

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Fritz. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

### **Aero World Corp. Property**

The acquisition of 4.42 acres in Sayville, Town of Islip. This will be acquired under the Suffolk County Save Open Space (SOS), Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Park Funds – Hamlet Parks Component. What we're proposing for this site is a small ball field and a 1.8 acre proposed dog park area. The Town of Islip will be our partner on managing the property (the County is purchasing the property on its own). The Town will be managing the athletic field and the County Parks Department will be managing and maintaining the dog park area.

**A motion to approve this acquisition was made by Trustee Dawson and seconded by Trustee Borden. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

Lauretta Fischer distributed Resolution No. 281-2007, "Appropriating Funds and Establishing a Program for the Suffolk County Environmental Fund (CP 8731)" for Trustees' review.

Lauretta Fischer mentioned the SOS (Save Open Space) program is ending at the end of this year and the Planning Department is frantically putting in their acquisitions so that we can close and use that money by years' end.

Chairman Corwin asked if there's an inventory of partnership agreements with towns and villages.

Acting Commissioner Bellone responded that when we get the Transfer of Jurisdiction, the Contracts Department drafts a Management Agreement, but the actual acquisition goes to Nick Gibbons and he will send a copy to the Area Supervisors so they are aware which parcels are under our jurisdiction.

Trustee Dawson requested that a tax map number be included on the agenda for future acquisitions (Department of Planning and Real Estate).

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

Chairman Corwin recognized speakers who arrived after the meeting had started.

Ginny Munger Kahn: I am the president of the Long Island Dog Owners Group. I want to publicly thank Acting Commissioner Bellone, Bill Sickles and Bob Schubert for the beautiful new dog park built in Blydenburgh County Park. We are here today to once more reiterate our willingness to "Share the Park" with other park goers. In late July, the Suffolk County Executive signed into law the "Natural Borders Dog Park Bill" which will allow the creation of dog parks that are not only fenced in, but also delineated by natural borders. The passage of this new law finally makes possible a solution at Conidre Hall. We know Acting Commissioner Bellone is hesitant about natural border dog parks, but we want to assure the Parks Department and the Trustees that our "Share the Park" campaign showed that dogs can be confined to a specific area of the park by nothing more than an imaginary line. We are very anxious to come to a solution at Conidre Hall.

Arlyne McMullin: I'm involved with the dog park at Blydenburgh and I'm usually there 4 or 5 times a week. If you come in the middle of the week, you're going to see between 15 and 30 dogs at any time of the day. During the weekends we have had 60 to 90 dogs. A lot of people who come in are new to dog parks and we explain to them what to do at the park. The Parks Department did a wonderful job at Blydenburgh. There's enough room for large dogs and enough room for small dogs. Bill Sickles and Robert Schubert have done an amazing job at this park.

Barbara Buscareno: I've been involved in this effort since 1997. Now we have a new Parks Commissioner we'll be dealing with. It can be quite a challenge for you and for us. At this particular site we had a pilot program that started with signs that started at the top of the hill where it starts to drop off, with limited hours. This has been an off-leash, unfenced dog park forever, unofficially. Other parks have done this - where they have times when dogs can be off leash and times when they can't. The dog owners are not going to go away. I feel that dog owners are committed to this site and no matter how many tickets you throw at us and how much trouble you want to cause them, I don't think they're going to leave.

Christine Ballow: I was fortunate enough to have discovered Coindre Hall. I happened to have inherited an unsocialized dog and she is learning so much here. The beauty of Coindre Hall is the size of it. Because of the large property and terrain, you can keep different groups of dogs here and they are all very happy. I want to thank you all for making this available to all of us.

Margaret Hargraves:

We have two dogs (our older dog died). Dogs have to socialize and it's not fair to isolate them and not have a place for them to go and be with other dogs. I've discovered that Coindre Hall is such a happy,

wholesome, upbeat place to be with your dog. It's pristine out there. I love using Coindre Hall and hope we can continue using it.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Acting Commissioner Bellone reported:

### **Dogs at Coindre Hall**

Because it has been said here on the record that Coindre Hall is a dog park, I want to clarify that Coindre Hall is not a dog park. The only dog parks that Suffolk County presently have are at West Hills and Blydenburgh County Parks. If you are here, the rules are you have to have your dog on a leash.

### **Indian Island RPF**

The Indian Island RFP reviews for the new golf professional at Indian Island County Park, which Trustee Colina sat on the Committee for, were completed. The Committee did make a recommendation. Since I am leaving, I don't think it's my place to make the decision on which of the two people should actually get it. I will sit down with the incoming Commissioner on Monday and Tuesday to go over this so he can make the decision since it will be his responsibility to draft the contract.

### **New Commissioner**

The County Executive is going to recommend John Pavacic from DEC to be the new Commissioner of the Parks Department. He will come in as the Deputy Commissioner until he is approved and confirmed by the Legislature. Former Commissioner Foley and I will be available to him. I want to thank the Trustees for the great work you have done. For volunteer members, your dedication and the work that you is so admirable.

### **Fishing Pier at Smith Point**

Once of the pieces of the permit process was verification that the Commissioner could sign on behalf of the County. We had to get certification from the County Attorney (and some specific documents). Those documents were sent and it just needs the final sign-off. We're continuing with the bidding process.

### **Brick House on Froehlich Property**

Trustee McKay asked that Acting Commissioner Bellone remind the new Commissioner to follow up on the demolition of the brick house on the Froehlich property – it's a disaster area.

Acting Commissioner Bellone reported we're working on the demolition permits with DPW.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **Trustee Resignation**

Chairman Corwin reported that he received a call from Trustee Al Colina (Southampton) informing him that the November meeting will be his last. He will be resigning because he's moving out of state. We will be looking for a Trustee from Southampton. Another task on the long list of John Pavacic's "to do list" will be to prompt the Southampton Supervisor for an appointment on this.

### **Appointment of a Trustee to the Parks Foundation Board**

**A motion to appoint Chairman Ray Corwin to the Parks Foundation Board was made by Trustee Fritz and seconded by Trustee White. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

### New Commissioner

Chairman Corwin stated that his personal observations on the incoming Commissioner are positive – “I’ve worked with John Pavacic since my first day in government over 20 years ago. He’s a terrific individual and extremely knowledgeable. He’s a wealth of knowledge, gives you a straight forward point of view, never loses his temper - he’s a very even keeled person. I think he is a terrific person and I look forward to working with him.”

### ROUND TABLE

Nick Gibbons reported:

I am working with Trustee White on the GATR site. I believe we have all the pieces in place at this point in time. I will be going back to the CEQ in November.

Behind the Dunes Campgrounds – Montauk. I met with the two families who have been camping at Montauk for better than 20 years. They were both receptive to the idea. Bill Sickles is working with the Operations guys to come up with a policy about how the place would be used. We will circulate that back out to the campers.

Tree Fort in Islip has been dismantled.

The Chandler Estate Adaptive Reuse Plan has been endorsed by CEQ and now needs to go to Committee.

Parks Trustees and meeting participants thanked Acting Commissioner Bellone for her dedication and hard work at Parks and wished her well in her position.

Chairman Corwin asked the Trustees to start thinking about a new Chairman and a new Vice Chairman.

Chairman Corwin announced that the next Trustees meeting will be at Timber Point Country Club on Thursday, November 15, 2007.

**A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Fritz. Unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0.**

Minutes submitted by Ann Rothenberg.